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Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 5
Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

Chile: draft resolution

Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, and recalling other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance and the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and natural disasters to promote and fully respect these principles,

Welcoming the decision of the Council to consider the theme "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian assistance" at the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 2010,

Welcoming also the decision of the Council to hold panels on "Humanitarian assistance operations in highly hazardous or insecure and unsafe environments" and "Strengthening preparedness for humanitarian emergencies and the coordinated provision of humanitarian assistance, in particular addressing the humanitarian needs of the affected populations and the factors that increase susceptibility to humanitarian emergencies", and to hold an informal event on "From relief to recovery: lessons learned from the experience of Haiti",

Expressing grave concern at the increase in the number of people affected by humanitarian emergencies, including those associated with natural hazards and complex emergencies, at the increased impact of natural disasters and at the displacement resulting from humanitarian emergencies,

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Reiterating the need to mainstream a gender perspective into humanitarian assistance in a comprehensive and consistent manner,

Expressing its deep concern at the increasing challenges facing Member States and the United Nations humanitarian response capacity posed by the consequences of natural disasters, including those related to the continuing impact of climate change, and by the global food crisis and continuing food insecurity,

Acknowledging that the current financial and economic crisis has the potential to increase the need for resources for humanitarian assistance in developing countries,

Condemning the increasing number of attacks and other acts of violence against humanitarian personnel, facilities, assets and supplies, and expressing deep concern about the negative implications of such attacks for the provision of humanitarian assistance to affected populations,

Noting with grave concern that violence, including gender-based violence, including sexual violence, and violence against children, continues to be deliberately directed against civilian populations in many emergency situations,

Recognizing that building and strengthening national and local preparedness, prevention, resilience, mitigation and response capacity is critical to a more predictable and effective response,

Recognizing also the clear relationship between emergency response, rehabilitation and development, and reaffirming that in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development, emergency assistance must be provided in ways that will be supportive of recovery and long-term development and that emergency measures should be seen as a step towards sustainable development,

Noting the contribution, as appropriate, of relevant regional and subregional organizations in the provision of humanitarian assistance within their region upon the request of the affected State,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;[1]

2. *Stresses* that the United Nations system should make efforts to enhance existing humanitarian capacities, knowledge and institutions, including, as appropriate, through the transfer of technology and expertise to developing countries, and encourages the international community to support efforts of Member States aimed at strengthening their capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters;

3. *Urges* Member States to develop, update and strengthen disaster preparedness and risk reduction measures at all levels, in accordance with the Hyogo Framework for Action,[2] in particular priority 5 thereof, taking into account their own circumstances and capacities and in coordination with relevant actors, as appropriate, and encourages the international community and relevant United

[1] A/65/82-E/2010/88.

[2] Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2).

Nations entities, including the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, to give increased priority to supporting national and local efforts in this regard;

4. *Encourages* Member States to create and strengthen an enabling environment for the capacity-building of their national and local authorities, national societies of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and national and local non-governmental and community-based organizations in providing timely humanitarian assistance, and also encourages the international community, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions and organizations to support national authorities in their capacity-building programmes, including through technical cooperation and long-term partnerships, based on recognition of their important role in providing humanitarian assistance;

5. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken at the regional and national levels in relation to the implementation of the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance adopted at the Thirtieth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva from 26 to 30 November 2007, and encourages Member States and, where applicable, regional organizations to take further steps to strengthen operational and legal frameworks for international disaster relief, taking into account, as appropriate, these Guidelines;

6. *Encourages* efforts to enhance cooperation and coordination of United Nations humanitarian entities, other relevant humanitarian organizations and donor countries with the affected State, with a view to planning and delivering emergency humanitarian assistance in ways that are supportive of early recovery as well as sustainable rehabilitation, reconstruction and development efforts;

7. *Also encourages* efforts to provide education in humanitarian emergencies, including in order to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

8. *Requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue his/her efforts to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance, and urges relevant United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, as well as other humanitarian and relevant development actors, including civil society, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness, and efficiency of humanitarian assistance;

9. *Encourages* United Nations humanitarian organizations and other relevant organizations, while strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, to continue to work in close coordination with national Governments, taking into account the primary role of the affected State in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of such assistance within its territory;

10. *Welcomes* the continued efforts to strengthen the humanitarian response capacity to provide a timely, predictable, coordinated and accountable response to humanitarian needs, and requests the Secretary-General to continue efforts in this regard, in consultation with Member States, including by strengthening support to United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators and improving their identification,

selection, training and by improving coordination mechanisms for the provision of humanitarian assistance at the field level;

11. *Encourages* the United Nations to strengthen further its ability to recruit and deploy staff quickly and flexibly and to procure emergency relief material rapidly and cost-effectively in order to support Governments and United Nations country teams in the coordination and provision of international humanitarian assistance;

12. *Urges* all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance to fully commit to and duly respect the guiding principles contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/182, including the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality and neutrality as well as the principle of independence, as adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 58/114 of 17 December 2003;

13. *Calls upon* all States and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow humanitarian personnel to perform efficiently their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

14. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflicts to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law;

15. *Calls upon* all States and parties to comply fully with the provisions of international humanitarian law, including all Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[3] in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War,[4] in order to protect and assist civilians in occupied territories, and in this regard urges the international community and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen humanitarian assistance to civilians in those situations;

16. *Recognizes* the benefits to the effectiveness of the humanitarian response of the engagement of and coordination with relevant humanitarian actors, and encourages the United Nations to continue to pursue efforts to strengthen partnerships at the global level with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, relevant humanitarian non-governmental organizations and other participants of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

17. *Urges* Member States to continue to take the steps necessary to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, premises, facilities, equipment, vehicles and supplies operating within their borders and in other territories under their effective control, recognizes the need for appropriate collaboration between humanitarian actors and relevant authorities of the affected State in matters related to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, requests the Secretary-General to expedite his efforts to enhance the safety and security of personnel involved in United Nations humanitarian operations, and urges Member States to ensure that

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[4] Ibid., vol. 75, No. 973.

perpetrators of crimes committed on their territory or on other territories under their effective control against humanitarian personnel do not operate with impunity and are brought to justice as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

18. *Encourages* Member States, as well as relevant regional and international organizations, in accordance with their specific mandates, to support adaptation to the effects of climate change and to strengthen disaster risk reduction and early warning systems in order to minimize the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, including those related to the continuing impact of climate change, takes note of the *2009 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction*[5] and encourages relevant entities to continue research on the humanitarian implications;

19. *Emphasizes* the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance and, in situations in which military capacity and assets are used to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance, reaffirms the need for their use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State and in conformity with international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as humanitarian principles;

20. *Requests* Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to ensure that all aspects of humanitarian response address the specific needs of women, girls, men and boys, taking into consideration age and disability, including through improved collection, analysis and reporting of sex- and age-disaggregated data, taking into account, inter alia, the information provided by States;

21. *Urges* Member States to continue to prevent, investigate and prosecute acts of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, in humanitarian emergencies, calls upon Member States and relevant organizations to strengthen support services to victims of such violence, and also calls for a more effective response in this regard;

22. *Notes* that the current global financial and economic crisis could potentially affect the ability of developing countries to respond to humanitarian emergencies, and stresses the need to take measures to ensure adequate resources for international cooperation in the provision of humanitarian assistance;

23. *Encourages* Member States, the private sector, civil society and other relevant entities to make contributions and to consider increasing and diversifying their contributions to humanitarian funding mechanisms, including consolidated and flash appeals, the Central Emergency Response Fund and other funds, based on and in proportion to assessed needs, as a means of ensuring flexible, predictable, timely, needs-based and, where possible, multi-year, non-earmarked and additional resources to meet global humanitarian challenges, encourages donors to adhere to the principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship,[6] and reiterates that contributions for humanitarian assistance should be provided in a way that is not to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development;

24. *Calls upon* United Nations humanitarian organizations, in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen the evidence base for

[5] United Nations, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (Geneva, 2009).

[6] A/58/99-E/2003/94, annex II.

humanitarian assistance by further developing common mechanisms to improve the quality, transparency and reliability of, and make further progress towards, common humanitarian needs assessments, to assess their performance in assistance and to ensure the most effective use of humanitarian resources by these organizations;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reflect the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution in his next report to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.